

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 SAM-01 OPIC-03 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 SP-02 CIEP-01

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 L-03

H-02 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 INT-05 FEAE-00 OES-03 SAI-01

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O R 271732Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6824

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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PARIS/BRUSSELS FOR HARTMAN

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EGEN EEC

SUBJ: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS' MAY 26 COUNCIL: PORTUGAL; RAW MATERIALS

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1. WE WERE GIVEN BRIEFING TODAY ON MAY 26 EC COUNCIL MEETING BY

KESTER HEASLIP, ASSISTANT SECRETARY AT DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHO WAS PRESENT THROUGHOUT DISCUSSION. BRIEFING ON POLITICAL COOPERATION MEETING FOLLOWS SEPTEL.

2. PORTUGAL: HEASLIP SAID THE ONLY DECISION TAKEN BY COUNCIL WITH REGARD TO PORTUGAL WAS TO GIVE IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT EXPLORATORY TALKS IN LISBON JUNE 1-3. ACCORDING TO HEASLIP, FITZGERALD IS NOT AUTHORIZED TO NEGOTIATE NOR IS HE EMPOWERED TO OFFER ANY NEW AID OTHER THAN THE EC'S PREVIOUSLY-EXPRESSED GENERAL WILLINGNESS TO HELP.

3. THE MINISTERS, ACCORDING TO HEASLIP, WERE IN GENERAL PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE TREND OF EVENTS IN PORTUGAL. THEY INTEND TO GO AHEAD WITH PLANS TO PROVIDE AID AND ENCOURAGE TRADE, BUT THEY NEVERTHELESS RECOGNIZE THAT THE PROCESS COULD BE CUT SHORT BY DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL. THE MINISTERS WERE OF OPINION THAT ATTENTION OF PORTUGUESE MUST BE DRAWN TO THE CONNECTION BETWEEN POLITICAL STABILITY AND DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS ON THE ONE HAND AND AID AND TRADE ON THE OTHER. HEASLIP EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS NOT IN ANY WAY INTENDED AS A THREAT TO THE PORTUGUESE. IT WAS MERELY THAT IF CONDITIONS ARE NOT RIGHT, CERTAIN ECONOMIC FACTORS SUCH AS TOURISM AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT WILL BE INHIBITED. THIS IS NOT A MATTER OF EC OFFICIAL POLICY, BUT SIMPLY A LOGICAL CONSEQUENCE OF INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL. IN ADDITION, IF THINGS GO WRONG, EC WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CONTINUE WITH ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL. HEASLIP SAID FITZGERALD WILL NOT CONVEY THIS LATTER POINT TO PORTUGUESE, BUT WILL TAKE MORE POSITIVE APPROACH OF ATTEMPTING TO DRAW THEIR ATTENTION TO IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING AN ATMOSPHERE CONDUCIVE TO ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.

4. FITZGERALD WILL DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF A MINISTERIAL MEETING WITH PORTUGUESE. THE EC IS NOT PUSHING THIS, BUT WILL LEAVE IT UP TO PORTUGAL. THE EC COMMISSION REPORT ON PORTUGAL IS SCHEDULED TO BE FINISHED JUNE 11 AND WILL BE DISCUSSED BY JUNE 24 COUNCIL MEETING (DUBLIN 927). QUESTION OF A ROLE FOR THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK IN PORTUGUESE AID WAS NOT DISCUSSED IN COUNCIL MEETING SINCE FRENCH DO NOT WANT THE BANK USED OUTSIDE EC.

5. WE ASKED HEASLIP ABOUT EC MINISTERS' ATTITUDE TOWQRD USG POLICY TOWARD PORTUGAL. HE REPLIED THAT HE RECALLED NO COMMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON US POLICY DURING MEETING, AND HE WAS EMPHATIC IN SAYING THAT HE HEARD NO CRITICISM WHATSOEVER OF US POLICY IN THIS RESPECT.

6. RAW MATERIALS: WITH REGARD TO RAW MATERIALS, HEASLIP SAID THAT DISCUSSION WAS MEANDERING AND DULL. MINISTERS WERE NOT PREPARED, NOR WERE THEY PARTICULARLY WELL-INFORMED ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS BEARING ON RAW MATERIALS ISSUES. MINISTERS TOOK NO DECISIONS AND AS A RESULT WILL GO INTO OECD MINISTERIAL WITHOUT A COORDINATED

EC POSITION ON RAW MATERIALS.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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